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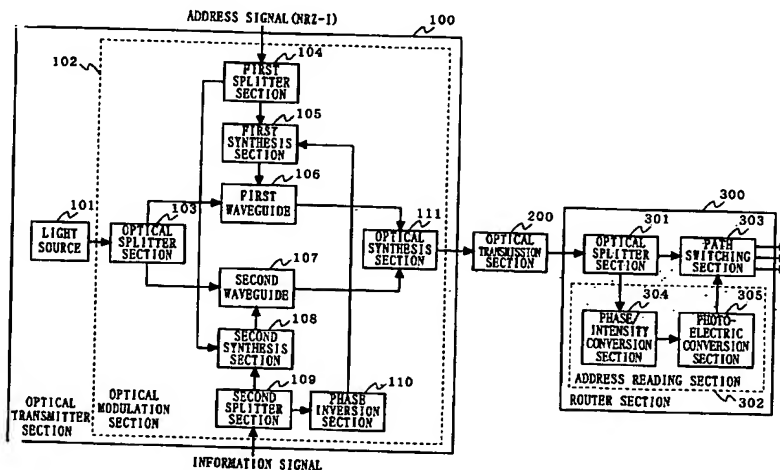
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(54) Title: OPTICAL PACKET EXCHANGER



(57) Abstract: An optical packet exchanger is provided which, in a situation where a transmission path for an optical packet is to be switched by using an address signal, prevents the transmittable capacity for the information signal from being decreased, and which facilitates the extraction of the address signal even if the modulation speed for the information signal becomes high. An optical modulation section 102 outputs an optical packet obtained by subjecting output light from a light source 101 to an intensity modulation using an information signal and a phase modulation using an address signal corresponding to a transmission destination into two optical packets. An optical splitter section 301 splits the optical packet received via the optical transmission section 200 into two optical packets. An address reading section 302 reads the address signal from the phase of one of the optical packets output from the optical splitter section 301. Based on the address signal output from the address reading section 302, a path switching section 303 determines an output port for the other optical packet

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
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Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
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Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the International search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, PAJ, WPI Data, INSPEC

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	EP 0 550 046 A (GTE LABORATORIES INC) 7 July 1993 (1993-07-07) abstract column 3, line 37 - line 42 column 4, lines 28-34	1,10,33
A	EP 1 113 695 A (NORTEL NETWORKS LTD) 4 July 2001 (2001-07-04) abstract	1-48
A	US 6 388 786 B1 (ONO TAKASHI ET AL) 14 May 2002 (2002-05-14) abstract	1-48
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C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 2000, no. 14, 5 March 2001 (2001-03-05) & JP 2000 324054 A (NEC CORP), 24 November 2000 (2000-11-24) abstract	1-48
P,A	-& US 6 728 490 B1 (OHHIRA RISATO) 27 April 2004 (2004-04-27) abstract -----	1-48

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